MULTI AWARD WINNING!

SCIENCE + ANIMALS + PUZZLES + PEOPLE + ARTS + PHOTOS + BOOKS + SPORTS + A GARLIC BATH BOMB

THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NEWS
About the SPHEREx mission
p4

NEWS
WNBA star announces retirement
p5

ANIMALS
Milestone for wolves in US park
p10

March 14, 2025 • Vol. 6, Issue 255 • $5.99

Making sense of the world

THE WEEK Junior

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

OSCAR WINNER!

The Academy Award for best animated feature goes to *Flow* p3

POWER OF THE PRESS
In 1913, Woodrow Wilson held the first Presidential press conference, and in 1955, Dwight Eisenhower held the first televised one.

Members of the news media in the Oval Office with President Donald Trump

History of the press room

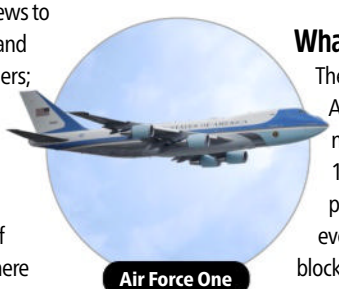
In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had a swimming pool built inside the White House (above). In 1970, to make room for more news crews, President Richard Nixon had a floor installed over the pool and turned the space into a briefing room where White House staff members hold press conferences.

White House breaks press traditions

In recent weeks, the White House has announced policy changes related to press coverage of President Donald Trump and his administration. The moves include taking control of who can be part of the White House press pool and blocking the access of a prominent news service.

What is the press pool?

The press pool is a small, rotating group of members of the news media who are allowed to be in close settings with the President, including in the Oval Office (the President's workspace) and on Air Force One (the Presidential airplane). The pool currently includes six reporters for wire services (services that supply news to other outlets) and print, radio, and online outlets; four photographers; and one TV crew. The pool follows the President around the world, asking questions and sharing details of what he says and does with hundreds of other journalists who are not there in person. For more than 60 years, regardless of which political party was in power, the White House Correspondents' Association (WHCA, an independent organization founded in 1914) has managed the pool's rotation of news professionals. It has typically included traditional news outlets, like ABC News, CNN, and Fox News.



Air Force One

What happened with the press pool?

On February 25, the White House announced that its press staff, not the WHCA, would decide who was in the press pool. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said traditional news outlets should not have a monopoly on access to the President and that other types of media representatives, like podcasters and social media personalities, should be included. "All journalists, outlets, and voices deserve a seat at this highly coveted table," Leavitt said. New pool members include Newsmax and The Blaze, which strongly support Trump. Long-standing members of the pool, such as Reuters wire service, were removed.

What happened with the AP?

The White House has banned the Associated Press (AP, a nonprofit newswire service founded in 1846) from being in the press pool and attending White House events. Trump said the AP was blocked because it has refused to follow his executive order to change the name of the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of America. On February 21, the AP filed a lawsuit saying the White House was violating the First Amendment of the US Constitution (nation's highest law), which guarantees freedom of speech and freedom of the press. The suit asked for the ban to be lifted because it was "plainly intended to punish the AP for the content of its speech," according to Julie Pace, the AP's executive editor. "The government cannot retaliate against the public or the press for what they say," she said.

How did people react?

Critics of the decisions said that by banning certain outlets from having access to the President, the White House is trying to ensure that Trump receives only favorable news coverage. WHCA President Eugene Daniels told NPR, "In free countries, like the United States...leaders don't get to pick who covers them day in and day out." Jacqui Heinrich, a Fox News reporter, wrote on social media, "This move does not give the power back to the people—it gives power to the White House." About 40 news outlets—including Newsmax and Fox News, which is also considered supportive of Trump—urged the White House to rethink its ban of the AP. Trevor McFadden, the federal judge who heard the AP's argument, said the White House ban likely violated the First Amendment but did not restore the AP's access right away.

What will happen next?

The WHCA said that on behalf of the American public, it will continue to push for media access and unbiased reporting on the White House. McFadden has called for another hearing on the AP's White House access on March 20.

Holi celebrations begin globally

On March 14, thousands of people across India and around the world will celebrate Holi (pronounced HOE-lee). Known as the festival of colors, the holiday marks the end of winter and the beginning of spring for people who follow the Hindu religion. Holi also signifies the triumph of good over evil and light over dark.

People have been celebrating Holi since at least the 4th century. In many parts of India, festivities begin the previous night when a bonfire is lit with wood and dried leaves. On the day of Holi, people throw water balloons at fellow revelers and toss brightly colored powder at one another. Traditionally, the colored powders were made using natural materials, like turmeric and marigold for yellow and indigo for blue. Today, synthetic dyes are commonly used.

Celebrations are expected to take place in many countries, including Nepal, Australia, Mauritius, Fiji, Indonesia, the UK, and the US. The largest Holi celebrations in the US will be held in Houston, Texas, and Spanish Fork, Utah.

A Holi celebration

Animals work together in the movie *Flow*.

STAMP OF APPROVAL
In honor of *Flow*'s success, Latvia issued a postage stamp featuring the cat from the film.

Academy Awards are presented

The most prestigious prizes in the film industry were presented on March 2 at the 97th Academy Awards, also known as the Oscars. The televised event was held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, California, and was hosted by comedian Conan O'Brien. *Wicked* co-stars Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo opened the ceremony with a performance of songs from the movie.

In a historic moment, *Flow* won the award for best animated feature, making it the first film from Latvia, a small country in northeastern Europe, to win an Oscar. It was also the first Latvian film to be nominated for an Academy Award. *Flow* follows a lone cat who works with other animals to survive in a world hit by a massive flood. The film, which is told from the cat's perspective without dialogue, was made on a small budget with a team of about 20 animators. Accepting the Oscar, director and co-writer Gints Zilbalodis said he hopes the win will inspire independent animators worldwide.

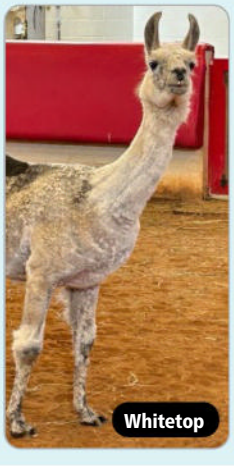
Wicked costume designer Paul Tazewell also made history when he became the first Black man to win the Oscar for best costume design. He received a standing ovation and called the award a "very significant honor." Also from *Wicked,* Nathan Crowley and Lee Sandales won the award for best production design.

A new record was set for the most Oscars won by one person for a single film. Sean Baker took home the Oscars for best director, best original screenplay, and best film editing for his movie *Anora* (rated R), which was also awarded the evening's highest honor: best picture. The film's star, Mikey Madison, also won best actress.

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A LLAMA'S LONG LIFE

At 27 years and 250 days old, Whitetop became the oldest llama in captivity. The friendly guy lives at a camp for children with serious illnesses in North Carolina. "He's the llama that you love," said a camp staffer.


Whitetop

FACIAL HAIR

For the first time since 1976, the New York Yankees will allow players and staff to grow beards. The baseball team's famous beard ban was meant to keep everyone looking professional and disciplined but was outdated, said team officials. "Well-groomed" beards are now welcome. "Wow," said Yankees catcher Austin Wells. "It's a big deal."

The Yankees logo

A DANCE MARATHON

More than 700 Pennsylvania State University students danced, stood, and stayed awake for 46 hours straight to raise more than $17.7 million for a children's cancer charity. The annual fundraiser, called THON, is the largest student-run charity in the world and has raised more than $236 million since 1977.

The THON total

ON THE COVER: JANUS FILMS; NETFLIX/NICKELODEON MOVIES; NASA; GETTY IMAGES (2); ON THIS PAGE: GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS, DCC; NEW YORK YANKEES; MICHAEL OWEN/PENN STATE; GETTY IMAGES (2); JANUS FILMS; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2)

WOW! SPHEREx operates on about 270 to 300 watts of power, which is less than what a refrigerator uses.

A rendering of SPHEREx in orbit

NASA to launch SPHEREx mission

SPHEREx, a space telescope that will peer into millions of other galaxies over the next two years, was preparing to launch when *The Week Junior* went to press on March 4. NASA, the US space agency, created the device to gain a deeper understanding of the origins of the universe. SPHEREx was set to launch on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from a base in California.

What is SPHEREx?

SPHEREx stands for Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization, and Ices Explorer. The $488 million telescope, which is about 8.5 feet tall and 10.5 feet wide, must be kept cold. That's why it's stored inside three concentric cones on top of mirrors that protect it from the Sun's energy. While other space telescopes, such as the James Webb and the Hubble telescopes, capture images of specific areas in space, SPHEREx has a larger field of view and can see the entire sky.

What will SPHEREx do?

Once SPHEREx has settled in orbit about 404 miles from Earth, it will survey the sky every six months. Four times during its mission, it will create a map of space in 102 different colors, created by wavelengths of infrared light (a type of light that the human eye can't see). This has never been done before. SPHEREx will help scientists gather information from about 450 million galaxies and see where they are in relation to one another. It will also offer insight into what happened immediately after the universe was created 13.8 billion years ago and look for ice and carbon dioxide (a gas that traps heat in the atmosphere), which are essential for supporting life.

Why is this important?

The mission offers a rare opportunity to see and map the entire universe in 3D, said Beth Fabinsky, deputy project manager of SPHEREx. The telescope will gather data on hundreds of millions of objects in space, including stars, asteroids, and other galaxies. NASA will then make that information freely available to scientists around the world.

What will happen next?

NASA expects to begin gathering data from SPHEREx five to six weeks after its launch. It will release data to the scientific community soon after receiving it from the telescope.

Athena travels to the Moon

The launch

The private Texas-based space company Intuitive Machines launched its own robotic research device, known as Athena, to the Moon on a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket on February 26. The goal is for Athena to be stationed near the Moon's south pole, where it can dig below the surface to search for water.

WORD OF THE WEEK

NEWT

A newt is an amphibian that can live in water and on land. It was initially called "an ewt," but when people heard those two words spoken together, they assumed that the last letter of "an" belonged to the next word, and so "an ewt" became "a newt."

THE WEEK IN HISTORY

March 11, 1888

The Great Blizzard strikes the East Coast

On March 11, 1888, the Great Blizzard struck the East Coast from Maryland to Maine. It brought dangerous winds and dumped more than four feet of snow in some areas. Trains above ground froze, and more than 400 people died. The severity of the storm led to improvements in the nation's disaster preparation systems and paved the way for funding to build New York City's subway.

New York City after the blizzard

Workers removing hazardous waste

Wildfire cleanup makes progress

The EPA, the US agency that protects the environment, said the first phase of cleanup from the wildfires that destroyed more than 40,000 acres in Los Angeles, California, in January is complete. The focus was on removing hazardous waste. In the next phase, workers will remove structural debris. The agency was proud to do its part, said EPA leader Lee Zeldin, who expressed hope that the community would rebuild stronger than ever.

The blossoms

Cherry blossom peak predicted

The 3,800 cherry blossom trees in Washington, DC, could reach peak bloom from March 28 to 31, the National Park Service reported. Peak bloom is when about 70% of the blossoms are open. Although peak bloom is predicted to occur a few days earlier this year than last year, it still falls during the Cherry Blossom Festival (from March 20 to April 13), which could draw more than 1.5 million visitors.

Kingda Ka

Tallest roller coaster taken down

The 456-foot-tall Kingda Ka at Six Flags Great Adventure in New Jersey was removed with a series of small implosions on February 28. When the coaster debuted in 2005, it was the tallest and fastest in the world, hitting a top speed of 128 mph. Kingda Ka remained the tallest coaster but lost its fastest status in 2010. A new coaster will replace Kingda Ka in 2026, Six Flags said.

Diana Taurasi

POPULAR PLAYER
In 2021, fans chose Diana Taurasi as the greatest player in WNBA history.

Basketball legend retires from game

Diana Taurasi, one of the greatest basketball players in history, announced her retirement from the sport. Taurasi, age 42, is the all-time leading scorer in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA), with 10,646 career points. Taurasi, the daughter of immigrants from Argentina, grew up in California. She played college basketball at the University of Connecticut (UConn), where her team won three straight national championships from 2002 to 2004 and had an undefeated season in 2002. She was named the Naismith National Player of the Year in 2003 and 2004.

In 2004, the Phoenix Mercury had the first pick in the WNBA Draft and selected Taurasi. She went on to spend her entire WNBA career with the team, winning championships in 2007, 2009, and 2014. She was named the league's Most Valuable Player (MVP) in 2009 and the MVP of the WNBA Finals in 2009 and 2014. She became the league's all-time leading scorer in 2017 and the first—and so far only—WNBA player to score at least 10,000 career points in 2023.

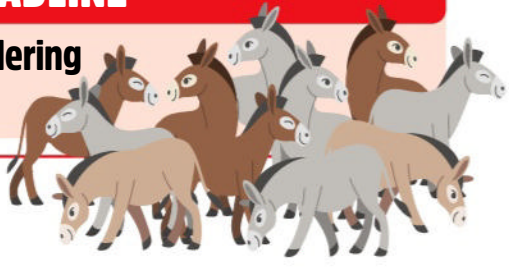
"I thank Diana for everything that she has brought to the WNBA—her passion, her charisma, and, most of all, her relentless dedication to the game," said WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert. "You can't tell the story of the WNBA without Diana," said Adam Silver, commissioner of the National Basketball Association (NBA). "She helped build the league into what it is today."

Taurasi has also won the most gold medals of any basketball player in Olympic history. From 2004 to 2024, she won six golds with Team USA, which had an undefeated record of 42–0. During the WNBA offseason, Taurasi often played in Europe. She won six Euroleague titles and was a three-time Euroleague MVP.

While Taurasi said she will miss the game, she also described herself as being ready to retire. "I'm full and I'm happy," she said.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Eleven donkeys found wandering loose in California" *UPI*



GETTY IMAGES (5); WNBA; ON LEFT PAGE: NASA; GETTY IMAGES (3)

Around the world

Leaders of the three parties

Vienna, Austria
New government takes office

Five months after an election in which no party won enough votes to control Austria's parliament (similar to Congress), a new government was sworn in on March 3. The government will be run by a coalition of three parties working together. There were two previous attempts to form a coalition, but talks kept breaking down. Christian Stocker (shown above, center), the head of the People's Party, will lead the new government.

Nujoma's coffin is carried.

Windhoek, Namibia
Funeral for first president

The funeral of Sam Nujoma, Namibia's "founding father," took place on March 1. Nujoma led the group that secured Namibia's independence from South Africa in 1990. He then became Namibia's first president and served for 15 years. Thousands of Namibians and several African leaders attended his funeral. Nangolo Mbumba, Namibia's current president, said, "May your legacy become a source of strength."

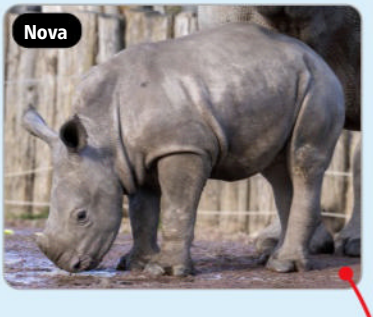
Soldiers on patrol during the blackout

Chile
Country recovers after power blackout

Chile was plunged into darkness on February 25 when a power outage left more than 19 million people without electricity for several hours. The government declared a state of emergency as train service halted, equipment such as traffic lights and medical devices stopped working, and three people died. The energy company blamed a faulty line, but investigations are ongoing.

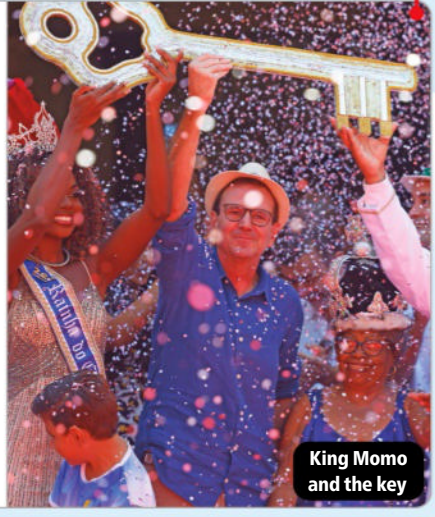
Brugelette, Belgium
Baby rhino makes her debut

A baby white rhinoceros named Nova has made her first public appearance at the Pairi Daiza Zoo. Nova was born in January and was kept in a special area until she was strong enough to join the zoo's main rhino enclosure. White rhinos, the largest of the five rhino species, are considered "near threatened," with about 10,000 living in the wild.


Nova

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Ceremony starts Carnival

The famous Rio Carnival kicked off on February 28 when the mayor gave the Carnival "king" the symbolic key to the city. Every Carnival has a King Momo, who represents society being turned upside down during the multi-day party. This year's King Momo is 28-year-old Kaio Mackenzie. Almost 500 Carnival events are planned throughout the city, and millions of people are expected to attend.


King Momo and the key

AP; GETTY IMAGES (3); ALAMY (2); REUTERS; CIFOR-ICRAF; SHUTTERSTOCK (2)

Around the world

The entrance to the vault

Spitsbergen, Norway
Seeds added to vault

More than 100,000 seeds from Africa were added to the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, a storage facility designed to keep plant species from going extinct if a disaster occurs. The new seeds come from 177 species, including white thorn, whose roots are used to treat snake bites, and the African baobab, which is used to treat kidney and bladder diseases.

Kids cannot bring phones to school.

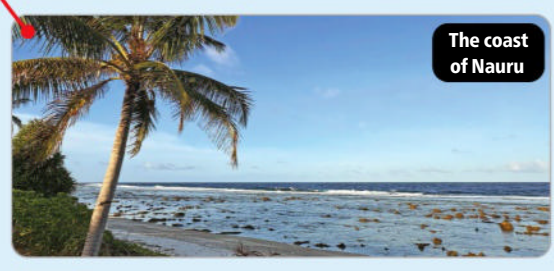
Denmark
Smartphones to be banned in schools

On February 25, Denmark's education minister announced that mobile phones and tablets will be banned in schools and after-school clubs, including during break times. The new rule will affect students ages 7 to 17. The government's decision follows a report on the effects of screen time on young people's well-being and focus. Education Minister Mattias Tesfaye said, "There is a need to reclaim the school as an educational space."

Taking the plunge

Most, Czech Republic
Swimmers take a record-breaking dip

On March 1, a group of 2,461 swimmers set a world record for the largest polar bear dip. A polar bear dip involves people swimming in very cold water, usually during winter. The group took the plunge in Most Lake, which was a frigid 38.2° F. To officially set the record, participants had to wear bathing suits, go into the water until they were at least waist-deep, and stay there for one minute.

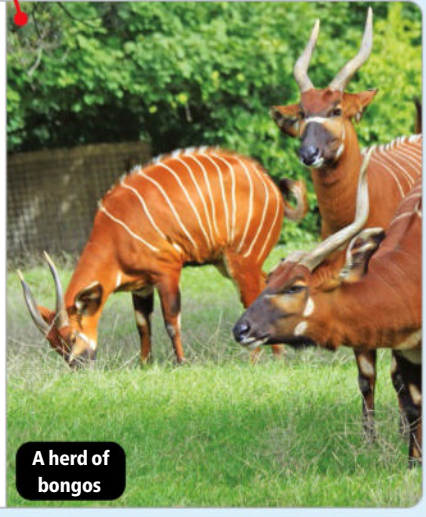

The coast of Nauru

Nauru
Government sells "golden passports"

Nauru's government is selling "golden passports" to people from other countries, officially classifying them as citizens of Nauru for the price of $105,000. Officials hope to raise enough money to move 90% of the Pacific island's 13,000 residents further inland to protect them from rising sea levels. The first phase of relocation is expected to cost more than $60 million.

Meru County, Kenya
Antelopes arrive from US

A US conservation center has sent 17 mountain bongos, one of the world's rarest antelope species, to Kenya. There were about 500 mountain bongos in the wild in Kenya in the 1970s, but now there are fewer than 100 because of hunting, disease, and habitat loss. The animals are being kept in wildlife sanctuaries before being released into the wild. Tourism Minister Rebecca Miano hopes the population will grow to 700 by 2050.


A herd of bongos

Should children use skincare products?

Lotions, creams, cleansers, and scrubs are becoming popular with young people.

What you need to know

- **TikTok, Instagram, and other social media platforms are full of videos showing people applying skincare.**
- **Dermatologists (doctors who treat skin, hair, and nails) say this has led to kids using products they don't need, including anti-aging products, as well as ones that can damage their skin.**
- **There are no laws in the US preventing children from buying skincare products meant for adults, but a bill to ban them for kids has been proposed in California.**

BEAUTY QUEEN
Legend has it that more than 2,000 years ago, the Egyptian queen Cleopatra bathed in donkey milk to make her skin smoother.

GETTY IMAGES

Americans are expected to spend $26 billion this year on skincare products, like sunscreen, wrinkle reducers, and face masks—and many of those customers will be teens and tweens. In 2023, the beauty company Sephora reported that the number of customers ages 9 to 12 had doubled in five years. One study by Common Sense Media found that 78% of teens said they had watched beauty tutorials online. But many popular skincare products are meant for adults, and some contain strong ingredients that kids don't need. Other people say the trend is harmless fun for young people. What do you think? Should children use skincare products?

Yes—start young and have fun

From a young age, children are taught that it's important to be healthy and take care of their bodies. That includes their skin. Sunscreen is particularly important, but other products like moisturizer can be helpful too. And many young people have pimples, oily skin, or other issues that can affect their confidence and cause stress. Skincare products can help with this. Besides, it's fun to shop for skincare, try samples, check out the packaging, and sniff products, especially with friends. The products smell so good, and it's cool to collect them. Skincare for young people is just part of growing up.

No—kids don't need them

Experts say skincare products for children are mostly unnecessary and a huge waste of money. Besides, many products that promise to help could irritate or damage a child's skin, which is more sensitive than an adult's. Some products can cause allergies and skin conditions like eczema in children. Dermatologists say young people just need a mild cleanser and sunscreen. Skincare products can also contribute to unrealistic ideas about how young people should look, which can make them feel bad about themselves. Kids should be playing with their friends and having fun, not looking in the mirror and worrying about their skin.

YES Three reasons children should use skincare products

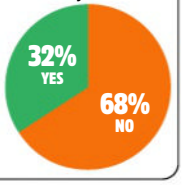
1. **It's important to take care of your body, which includes your face. Getting into the self-care habit is good.**
2. **Children can suffer from dry skin or pimples, so why shouldn't they use skincare products that might help?**
3. **Shopping for and using skincare products is just another fun thing to do with friends.**

NO Three reasons children should not use skincare products

1. **Many skincare products are expensive and unnecessary, which is a waste.**
2. **Products intended for adults can damage young, sensitive skin and cause long-term problems.**
3. **Young people are already under so much pressure to look a certain way, and skincare products only make it worse.**

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked you if sandwiches are the best lunch. While about a third of you said yes, most of you said no, the classic is not the best midday dish.



What do you think?

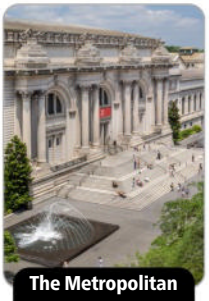
Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote YES if you think children should use skincare products or NO if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

Designing the future

Frida Escobedo is making history with her vision for a new art space.

Mexican architect Frida Escobedo has completed her bold design of a new wing for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City (known as the Met). Her vision for the space, the Oscar L. Tang and H.M. Agnes Hsu-Tang Wing, connects visitors with modern art and reflects varied cultures. The wing is expected to open in 2030. Escobedo is the first female architect to design a wing in the Met's 154-year history.


The Metropolitan Museum of Art

Growing up in Mexico City, Escobedo, age 45, would accompany her father, a physician, to work and gaze out the hospital windows at neighboring apartments. Curious about how people's living spaces reflected their personalities, she became passionate about architecture's power to tell stories. She went on to study architecture at a university in Mexico City and earned a master's degree in art and design at Harvard University in Massachusetts.

After founding a design studio in Mexico City in 2006, Escobedo got her first big job with an art installation at Mexico's Museo Experimental El Eco in 2010. This led to more projects for top institutions, such as the Victoria and Albert Museum in England.

Escobedo's design draws inspiration from the Met's diverse architecture, its vast collection of artworks, and the surrounding natural beauty of Central Park. She wants the new wing to bridge the museum's past and present. She sees architecture as "a living thing, constantly changing and shifting," she told *The New York Times*. "That's a condition for every aspect of life. Nothing is permanent."

Frida Escobedo

WOW! The Metropolitan Museum of Art, founded in 1870, contains more than 1.5 million works of art spanning 5,000 years of world history.

Advocate for snails

Kalikoonāmaukūpuna Kalāhiki, a 24-year-old Native Hawaiian, is responsible for getting a new law passed in Hawaii, designating nine kāhuli (the Hawaiian word for native land snails) as the state's official snails. As a high school volunteer at a museum in Honolulu, Kalāhiki learned about the cultural significance of snails—known as "the jewels of the forest" in Hawaii. With snails facing increasing environmental threats, Kalāhiki started a movement to have the state protect them. Thanks to community support, the law passed in April.

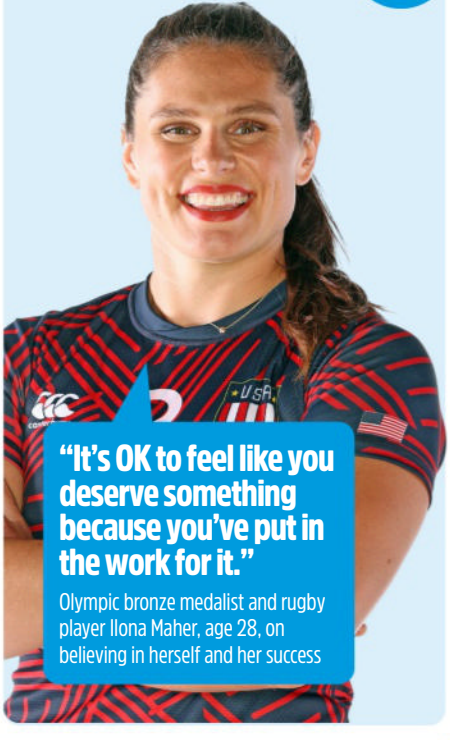
Kaliko Kalāhiki

Adrian Maclin

Top honor for teacher

Tennessee teacher Adrian Maclin received the 2025 Music Educator Award, an annual prize from the Grammy Museum that honors a music teacher's impact and dedication. Maclin, a choir director at Cordova High School in Memphis, has led his choirs to perform at renowned venues like Carnegie Hall in New York City. The award includes a $10,000 prize for Maclin and another $10,000 for his school's program. Maclin said his motivation has always been the joy of seeing his students succeed—"knowing that the little part that I did made a change in [their] life," he said.

OVERHEARD



"It's OK to feel like you deserve something because you've put in the work for it."

Olympic bronze medalist and rugby player Ilona Maher, age 28, on believing in herself and her success

GETTY IMAGES (3); BRETT BEYER, COURTESY OF THE MET; NICK DENTAMARO/BROWN UNIVERSITY

HEARTY APPETITE
Adult gray wolves can eat up to 20 pounds of meat in a single meal.

Gray wolves are now thriving in the park.

More wolves in Colorado

Fifteen gray wolves from Canada were recently released into the wild in Colorado. This is the second set released in the state since 2023 as part of an effort to restore the species, which was eliminated from Colorado by human activity. There are now 29 known wild wolves in the state.

The release

Milestone for wolves in Yellowstone

This month marks 30 years since wild gray wolves were released in Yellowstone National Park after having been absent from the area for decades. Their return has given scientists a rare opportunity to research what happens in an ecosystem (group of plants and animals that affect one another) when a key species is reintroduced.

Yellowstone is America's first national park. After it was established in 1872, rangers began a campaign to eliminate wolves from the area because they saw the animals as a threat to people and livestock. The last two wolves in the park were killed in 1926. In 1978, wolves were listed as endangered in most of the US.

A wolf being introduced in 1995

Wolves are at the top of the food chain and help keep the populations of other local species at a healthy level. After wolves disappeared from Yellowstone, the population of elk increased. The elk ate plants that other species, such as hummingbirds and beavers, relied on for food.

Conservationists eventually came to understand how important the predators had been to the ecosystem and began calling for them to be reintroduced to the area.

In 1995, experts brought a group of wild wolves from Canada to Yellowstone. Over the next two years, 41 wolves from Canada and northwestern Montana were released into the park. The population grew and has remained stable since 2009, typically ranging from 83 to 123 wolves. They are now found throughout Yellowstone and have also established territories outside the park.

Since the return of wolves, elk have spent more time avoiding the predators and less time eating plants. This leaves more food for beavers, whose population has grown from one colony to nine. Beavers, in turn, have developed new habitats for other creatures by building dams. Trees have grown taller, creating more homes for birds, and the remains left over from wolves' hunts have also fed scavenging animals like ravens, bears, and coyotes. "The Yellowstone story is still unfolding," ecologist William Ripple, who led a recent study on the effects of the wolves' return, told Live Science. "And it is going to be fascinating to see where it goes next."

PLACE OF THE WEEK

Takayna/Tarkine, Australia

On the Australian island state of Tasmania lies an extremely rare temperate rainforest known as Takayna or the Tarkine. These forests feature dense tree canopies in cool, rainy climates. The area, which covers about 1,841 square miles, also has mountain ranges, rivers, grasslands, and coastlines. Visitors can see animals including Tasmanian devils, azure kingfishers, giant crayfish, platypuses, and penguins. One way to experience the wilderness is by boat on the Arthur River, which meets the Southern Ocean at a site some call "The Edge of the World."

An azure kingfisher

BEE ALONE
About 70% of bee species worldwide are solitary, meaning they live in individual nests instead of sharing a hive.

A bee wearing a QR code for the study

A creative way to track bees

Experts attached QR codes to the backs of more than 30,000 honeybees in order to shed light on a mystery: How much time do bees spend outside their hives?

Honeybees live in hives with a queen, male drones, and thousands of female worker bees. The workers go out and forage (search) for food, such as pollen and nectar from flowers. Experts wanted to find out how far they fly during these trips.

To track their behavior, a team from Penn State University visited beehives and stuck tiny, machine-readable codes on young bees. They set up cameras with sensors at the hives' entrances to record each time a bee left or came back to the hive. They found that although most trips lasted a few minutes, about 34% lasted two hours or more. When fewer flowers were available, the bees traveled farther to find food.

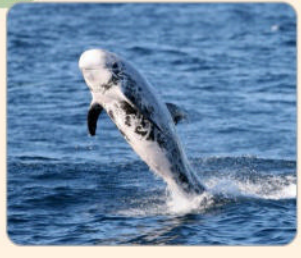
Surprisingly, the results also suggest that honeybees live much longer than scientists previously believed. Their life span was thought to be about four weeks, but some bees were recorded foraging for as long as six weeks.

Animal of the week: California newt

More than 22,300 California and rough-skinned newts have been rescued over the past six years by the Chileno Valley Newt Brigade. This team of 80 volunteers patrol roads from late fall through March to help the amphibians migrate safely.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 20 years in captivity, 15 in the wild
- **HABITAT:** California's Santa Monica Mountains
- **SIZE:** 5 to 8 inches
- **DIET:** Invertebrates like worms, snails, and insects
- **FUN FACT:** Adult California newts secrete the same poisonous toxin as pufferfish.

Good week / Bad week



Risso's dolphins
Whale watchers off the coast of California spotted a "super pod" of more than 1,500 Risso's dolphins, which usually swim in groups of 10 to 30. "They looked like they were having a big party," said one marine biologist.

Blacktip reef sharks
Sharks have a reputation for eating almost anything, but blacktip reef sharks at some tourist feeding sites have been eating so much human food that their health is suffering. Researchers found changes in the sharks' blood and behavior.

ASK AN EXPERT

"Why shouldn't dogs eat chocolate?" Sua, 8, Washington

Dr. Gabrielle Fadl
Veterinarian,
Bond Vet

Chocolate contains theobromine, a compound that is toxic to dogs. Unlike humans, dogs process theobromine very slowly, so dangerous levels can build up in their bodies and cause vomiting, seizures, or death. The darker the chocolate, the more theobromine it has, making it worse for dogs.

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to *hello@theweekjunior.com*. Find out more about Bond Vet at bondvet.com.

PENN STATE RESEARCHERS; GETTY IMAGES (4); ON LEFT PAGE: ALAMY (2); UNSPLASH/CCO PUBLIC DOMAIN; BARRY O'NEILL/YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK; GETTY IMAGES

Thrilling competition

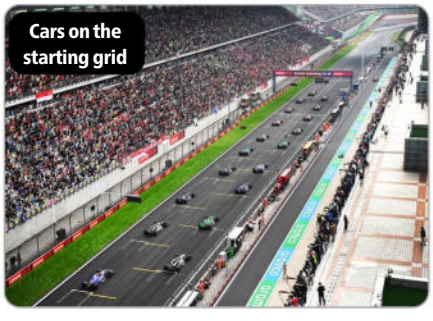
Power, speed, and drama define the global sport of Formula 1.

The 2025 season, getting underway soon, is marking 75 years of the most prestigious motor racing series in the world: Formula 1 (F1).

An F1 race car

What is Formula 1?

Formula 1 is a racing competition featuring cars that have one seat and open wheels (wheels outside the car's body). The "Formula" in F1 refers to the rules that govern the sport, including the cars' design. F1 is overseen by the global governing body for motorsports, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA). An F1 race, called a Grand Prix, features 10 teams made up of two drivers each, and races are held all over the world. Drivers compete to win the individual F1 Drivers' Championship, while teams compete for the F1 Constructors' Championship.



Cars on the starting grid

How it works

In a typical F1 race weekend, there are practice sessions on Friday and Saturday, when teams and drivers test out their cars on the track. Qualifying sessions to determine the order of cars on the starting grid also take place on Saturday. The main race is on Sunday. The length of all races, except the Monaco Grand Prix, must be at least 305 kilometers (about 190 miles). In recent years, some Grand Prix events have added shorter races called sprints. Championship points are awarded to the top 10 finishers in a race in descending order. The first-place finisher gets 25 points, while 10th place gets one.

WOW! Michael Schumacher drove the fastest race in F1 history at the 2003 Italian Grand Prix, winning in 1 hour, 14 minutes, and 19.838 seconds.

DID YOU KNOW? Three F1 races will be held in the US in 2025—in Miami, Florida; Austin, Texas; and Las Vegas, Nevada.

Iconic racetracks

Circuit de Monaco

The Monaco Grand Prix takes place on this narrow track with corners (right). Drivers race at slower speeds and for a shorter distance compared to typical F1 races. Ayrton Senna of Brazil has the most wins, with six.

Las Vegas Circuit

This circuit (right) was created in 2023 for the Las Vegas Grand Prix. Drivers reach speeds of up to 215 miles per hour while racing past some of the city's most iconic sites. Max Verstappen won this race in 2023, while George Russell claimed first place in 2024.

GETTY IMAGES

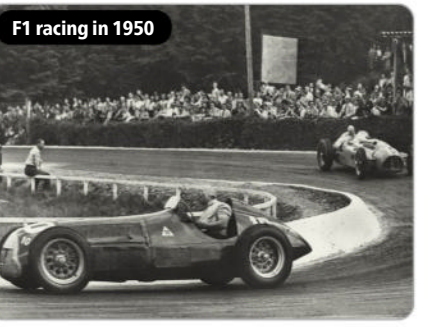
on the track

QUICK START
A Formula 1 car has the ability to accelerate from zero to 60 miles per hour in 1.6 seconds.

The field at the F1 Grand Prix of Singapore on September 22, 2024

Suzuka Circuit

Built in the 1960s to test Honda cars, the Suzuka Circuit (right) became the host circuit of the Japanese Grand Prix in 1987. The course is famous for its figure-eight layout that crosses over itself. Michael Schumacher of Germany has the most Japanese Grand Prix wins, with six.


F1 racing in 1950

Starting up

Automobile racing dates back to the late 1800s. The first race to call itself a Grand Prix was held in Le Mans, France, in 1906. Other races that called themselves "Grand Prix" were established soon after. The organization that later became the FIA was founded in 1924. The FIA established the first F1 championship in 1950, with the first race held at Silverstone Circuit in the UK on May 13. That season featured seven Grand Prix races and was won by Alfa Romeo driver Giuseppe "Nino" Farina. The Monaco Grand Prix, possibly the biggest in F1, was first held in 1929 and was included in the first F1 season in 1950. It has been a part of every F1 championship since 1955.

Lewis Hamilton

Celebrating 75 years

More than 6 million people worldwide attended an F1 race in 2023. The sport has also been growing in popularity in the US. There is one team, Haas, with US–based owners, and the US car company General Motors will sponsor a Cadillac F1 team in 2026. On February 18, all 10 teams and drivers gathered for a first-ever season launch show called *F1 75 Live*, streamed from London. The 75th-anniversary season will feature 24 races, starting in Melbourne, Australia, on March 14 and finishing in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in December. The Monaco Grand Prix will be held on May 25. Drivers to watch include Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who has won the past four Drivers' Championships, and Lewis Hamilton, who is tied for the most titles by a driver, with seven, and will be driving for Ferrari.

** A black and white checkered flag is waved to indicate the end of an F1 race or session.*

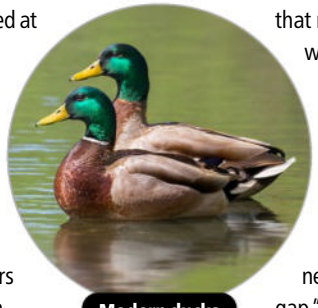
An artist's rendering of a prehistoric bird called Vegavis iaai

DINO FAMILY
All modern birds evolved from a group of dinosaurs called theropods, which included Tyrannosaurus rex.

Ancestor of modern ducks found

A prehistoric fossil uncovered in Antarctica could be the oldest modern bird ever found and an ancestor of today's ducks and geese. The discovery could help scientists continue piecing together the long evolutionary history of birds.

The nearly complete bird skull is about 69 million years old. Called Vegavis iaai, it belongs to a species of waterfowl (birds that include ducks, geese, and swans) that lived at the same time as dinosaurs like Tyrannosaurus rex. The duck-like species survived when all dinosaurs that were not avian (related to birds) died out about 66 million years ago.



Modern ducks

The mystery of Vegavis iaai began in 1993, when researchers discovered the fossil of a bird on Vega Island in Antarctica. It did not have a skull, which made it difficult to fully identify. Julia Clarke, a paleontologist (scientist who studies fossils) at the University of Texas, Austin, was one of the scientists who found the first fossil. She thought it was related to modern waterfowl but couldn't prove that without the creature's skull.

Then, in 2011, researchers found a skull on Vega Island. They recently confirmed that it was a match for the skeleton from 1993, which provided an opportunity to determine whether Vegavis iaai was connected to today's ducks and geese.

The researchers created a digital 3D model of the Vegavis iaai skull, which showed that its brain was shaped like the brains of today's ducks and geese. However, it had a long, narrow beak and powerful jaw muscles that made it different from waterfowl and more like modern birds that dive and catch fish.

Despite the range of characteristics, the study's authors believe Vegavis iaai is related to today's waterfowl. "It's exactly the kind of thing we need to help fill in an evolutionary gap," Christopher Torres, a co-author of the new study, told *The New York Times*. Other scientists are not convinced, however, and argue that more fossils of the species are needed to fully confirm the findings.

Torres and his colleagues understand that there is more work to be done to support their findings and that their conclusions are controversial. "Few birds are as likely to start as many arguments among paleontologists as Vegavis," Torres told Science News.

How birds helped plants

By studying the fossilized poop of an extinct flightless bird called the moa, scientists are learning how it helped support its ecosystem (group of plants and animals that affect each other). Moa roamed New Zealand before being hunted into extinction about 600 years ago. Researchers recently examined moa coprolites (fossilized poop) and found traces of a bright purple fungi (above) that grew on the island.

Fungi help their ecosystem, providing nutrients to the soil and protecting plants from harm, and are usually spread around by mammals that eat them and poop them out. In this case, the researchers realized, the moa did that instead, perhaps mistaking the colorful fungi for berries. Now that the birds are extinct, the colorful fungi is not as common.

The surprising origin of human ears

The human ear consists of three parts: the outer, middle, and inner ear. The outer ear, which is visible from the outside, exists only on mammals. For many years, scientists have wondered where it came from. A new study found that it evolved (changed very slowly over time) from fish gills.

Scientists have known for many years that the middle ear, which is not visible from the outside, evolved from the jawbones of prehistoric fish. A team of scientists from the University of Southern California wondered if the outer ear also came from fish.

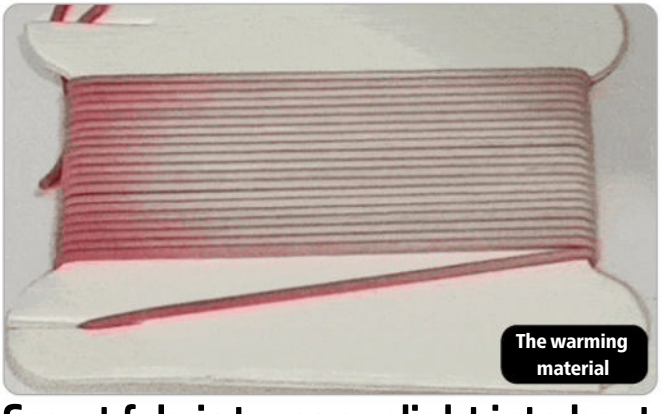
A zebrafish

They found that the human outer ear and the gills of some fish are made up of the same rare type of cartilage (strong, flexible tissue in the body), called elastic cartilage. It is uncommon outside mammals but exists in bony fish like the zebrafish. The team also found similarities in the DNA (chemical that carries all the information about a living thing) of human outer ears and zebrafish gills.

They concluded that elastic cartilage first appeared in the gills of marine animals hundreds of millions of years ago. Eventually, some of those species evolved into land creatures that no longer needed gills. When that happened, the genes (short sections of DNA) that created their gills adapted to create an outer ear instead. The team also found the same genetic process in horseshoe crabs, which have existed for about 400 million years.

The visible part of our ears is made from cartilage.

DID YOU KNOW?
Ears are technically considered organs and are responsible for hearing as well as for balance.



The warming material

Smart fabric turns sunlight into heat

Scientists in Canada created a soft, stretchy fabric that converts sunlight into heat and offers a safe and effective way to stay warm. Similar materials exist, but they often rely on external power, metals, or ceramics to work, which can make them expensive and clunky.

For the new fabric, researchers used nanoparticles (extremely small particles) of two plastic-like materials, which absorb light and turn it into heat through a process called photothermal conversion. They put the nanoparticles into fibers and added a dye that changes color when it gets warm.

To test the new material, they made a tiny red sweater for a teddy bear. After 10 minutes in the sun, it reached 128.3° F and turned white.

The fabric retained its heating and color-changing abilities even after 25 washes. The scientists will keep testing the product to make sure it's safe and affordable.

AMAZING INVENTION

A device that tests for food safety

EcoTracker at work

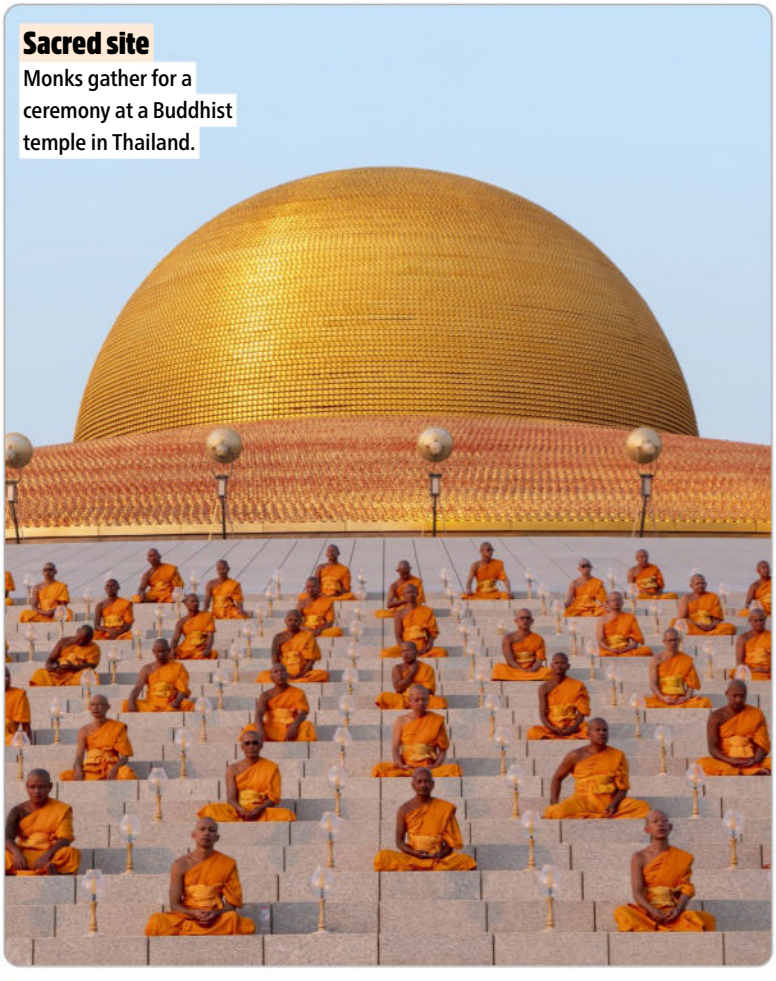
A pocket-size tool has sensors that test food and liquid for harmful substances and provide results within seconds. The tool, called EcoTracker, was developed by the company Milerd, which has been making medical equipment and consumer gadgets for many years.

EcoTracker measures levels of substances like nitrates and pesticides in meats and produce. These aren't necessarily bad but can indicate contamination or be harmful in large quantities. It also detects acidity and potentially harmful substances like lead or arsenic in water.

GETTY IMAGES (2); UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO; MILERD; ON LEFT PAGE: MARK WITTON/OHIO UNIVERSITY; GETTY IMAGES; NOAH SIEGEL

Photos of the week

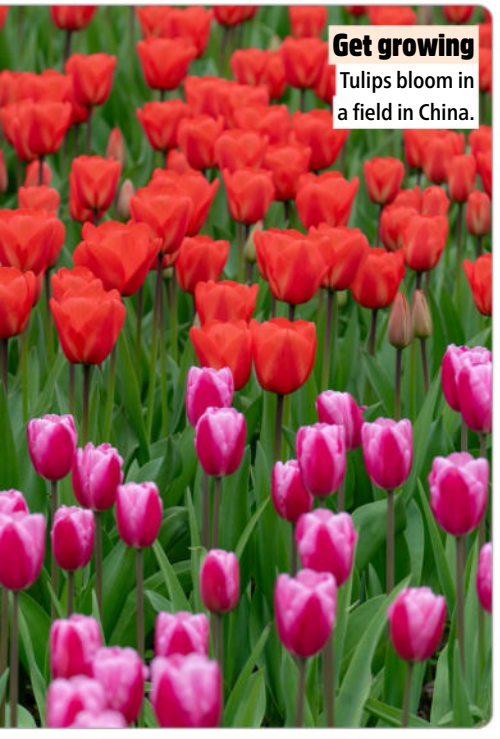
Colorful costume
A carnival performer in France participates in an ocean-themed parade.



Sacred site
Monks gather for a ceremony at a Buddhist temple in Thailand.

GETTY IMAGES (6)

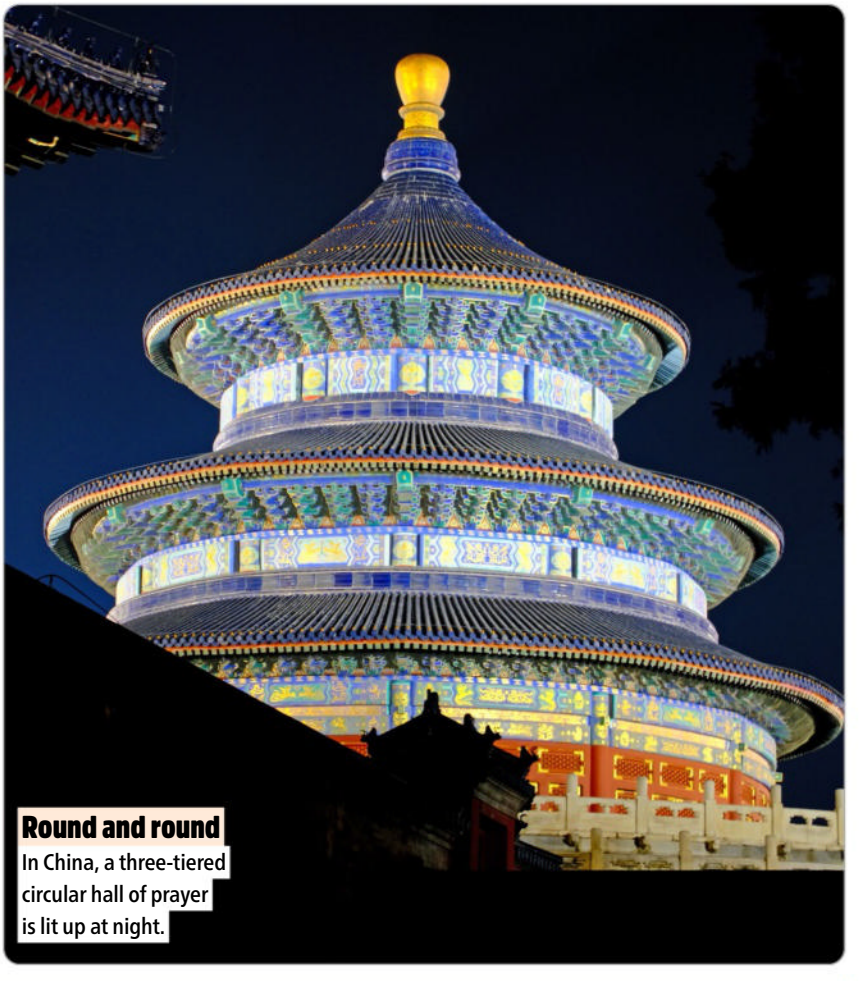
Photos of the week



Get growing
Tulips bloom in a field in China.

Dazzling design
A dress by Guo Pei is on display at the Golden *Thread* exhibition in Paris.

All together
Great white pelicans fly over a lake at sunset in Iraq.



Round and round
In China, a three-tiered circular hall of prayer is lit up at night.

Igor Jesus of LAFC (left) and Maximiliano Moralez of New York City FC

WOW! In 2015, Mike Grella of the New York Red Bulls scored a goal seven seconds into a match, an MLS record.

Women's soccer update

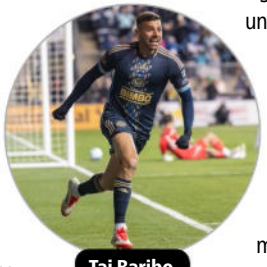
The US Women's National Team faced Japan in the final of the SheBelieves Cup, a friendly international tournament, on February 26. Japan won the match, 2–1, earning their first SheBelieves title. It was the US team's first loss in the competition in five years.

MLS teams begin 2025 season

The 30th season of Major League Soccer (MLS) recently got underway. San Diego FC joined the league this season, so there are now 30 clubs evenly divided between the Eastern and Western Conferences. Each one will play in 34 regular-season matches.

The LA Galaxy are the reigning MLS Cup champions. Before the season began, they were expected to be one of the best teams in the West, but they lost their first two games. Two other teams in the conference to watch will be LAFC, who finished in first place in the conference standings last year, and the Seattle Sounders.

In the Eastern Conference, the top teams are expected to include Inter Miami, whose star player is icon Lionel Messi, as well as Atlanta United and FC Cincinnati. Last year, Inter Miami won the Supporters' Shield, the trophy for the team with the best regular-season record, then suffered an unexpectedly early loss in the playoffs.


Tai Baribo

In addition to its MLS matches, Inter Miami will be playing in two international tournaments this year, the CONCACAF Champions Cup and the FIFA Club World Cup.

The second weekend of MLS matches kicked off on March 1. In one game, the Philadelphia Union improved to 2–0 with a 4–1 victory over Cincinnati. The Union's Tai Baribo is off to a hot start. He scored three goals in the Cincinnati match and two in his team's first game on February 22.

In other March 1 action, LAFC escaped with a 1–0 victory over New York City FC to remain perfect on the season. The game was scoreless until the 86th minute, when LAFC's Ryan Hollingshead came through with the lone goal. Meanwhile, San Diego played it first home game, a match against St. Louis City FC, and drew a sellout crowd. It ended in a 0–0 draw, keeping the new team undefeated.

The next day, the Vancouver Whitecaps beat the Galaxy, 2–1. Brian White scored the game-winning goal in the 87th minute to help his team also remain undefeated. Inter Miami secured its first victory of the season with a 4–1 win over Houston Dynamo FC. Telasco Segovia scored twice for Miami, and his teammates Tadeo Allende and Luis Suarez added one goal each.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

On March 1, the fourth-ranked women from the University of Southern California beat the second-ranked University of California Los Angeles, 80–67, and clinched a share of the Big Ten regular-season title. In exciting men's action on February 26, eighth-ranked Michigan State University held off 16th-ranked University of Maryland, 58–55, thanks to a half-court buzzer beater by Tre Holloman.

Mondo Duplantis

TRACK & FIELD

On February 28, pole vaulter Mondo Duplantis of Sweden set a new world record for the 11th time. He has increased the mark by one centimeter on each occasion. The record is now 6.27 meters (20 feet, 6.75 inches).

SKIING

American Jaelin Kauf clinched the World Cup season title in women's moguls after winning an event on March 1. She is the first American to win a season title in moguls since 2015.

DID YOU KNOW? Girls' wrestling is the fastest-growing high school sport in the US.

Female wrestlers from the University of Iowa (in black) and McKendree University

Big news in women's college sports

The NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association)—an organization that oversees championship competitions and student-athlete programs at over 1,100 colleges in the US and one in Canada—is expanding opportunities for female athletes. It is elevating women's wrestling to a championship sport and adding flag football to its Emerging Sports for Women program.

The NCAA's Emerging Sports for Women program began in 1994 as a way to give college women more sports to play and help promote gender equity. Sports in the program receive support and recognition from the NCAA and can recruit athletes to compete for their teams. When enough colleges sponsor varsity programs, the sport can gain championship status. Since 1994, five women's sports in addition to wrestling have made that transition: rowing (1996), ice hockey (2000), water polo (2000), bowling (2003), and beach volleyball (2015).

Wrestling became an emerging sport in 2000 and is now the NCAA's 91st championship sport. An NCAA women's championship is scheduled for 2026. During the 2023–24 academic year, 76 NCAA colleges sponsored women's wrestling programs. Non-NCAA schools also have programs.

Flag football's place on the emerging sports list reflects its increasing popularity: As of last year, nearly 500,000 girls ages 6 to 17 played the sport. Many small colleges have had teams since 2020, and at least 65 NCAA schools have teams at the club or varsity level. The sport will be part of the 2028 Olympics in Los Angeles, California, which should lead to even more interest and growth.

COACH OF THE WEEK

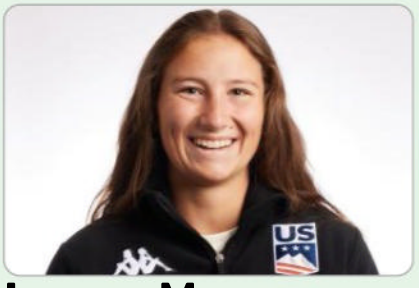
Coach's Name: **Taylor Robertson**

Team: **Wilson Bulldogs Lacrosse Club**

"Reasons my coach is great: Coach Taylor is always pushing us to new limits every practice, and he helps us achieve goals that we thought we would never have made. Coach is a great and kind person who never gives up. If we are having trouble with something, he pulls us aside and helps us work on it in the moment. He is the best coach, and he always tries his best." Austin, 10, Pennsylvania

To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to *hello@theweekjunior.com.* Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Lauren Macuga

AGE: 22 SPORT: ALPINE SKIING
TEAM: USA

Early years My family moved to Park City, Utah, in 2007, and I was in a program that helps kids try sports. I picked ski racing because I like going fast.

Role model I grew up watching Lindsey Vonn, the greatest speed skier in the world. She retired but started competing again recently. I ski with her almost every day. Being able to talk to my idol and ask her questions in training is a crazy turn of events.

Workout plans In the summer, we ski in South America. On training days, we're out for about three hours almost every morning. Through the winter, it's the same. If we're not racing, we're going out in the mornings and getting six runs in. We're also in the gym a lot.

Tough time When I was competing at the Youth Olympics in 2020, some girls were saying the course looked scary or super hard. It wasn't true, but it got in my head and I didn't race to my potential. After that, I realized I had to figure out how to block out chaos and focus on just me. It took a few years, but it's changed my skiing.

Best moment In January, I won my first World Cup race. I'd figured out my race-day mentality and just went for it, top to bottom. The World Cup finals are this month in Sun Valley, Idaho. To put down a fast run on home soil would be very fun.

Good thoughts I always try to be positive, so instead of saying, "I did this turn bad," I say, "I can do this turn better." I also try to enjoy what I'm doing. When it's freezing cold or pouring rain, I don't think, "Why am I out here?" I think, "I'm out here so I can keep training to be the best in the world."

IOWA ATHLETICS; US SKI & SNOWBOARD; GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (4)

MAKING HISTORY
In 2014, Mo'Ne Davis became the first female winning pitcher in a Little League World Series game.

Cuban girls who play baseball in *See Her Be Her*

Film about women in baseball

***See Her Be Her*, a documentary celebrating female athletes, has started a 12-week tour across the US.**

The team that created *See Her Be Her*, a documentary about women's baseball, is taking the film on a 12-city tour across the US from now until November. At each stop, they will host a screening and Q&A at an AMC Theatres location. Tickets for students ages 8 and up are free. The film is also available now on Prime Video.

See Her Be Her was directed and produced by photographer Jean Fruth, who also published a photo-filled book with the same title. She is a co-founder of the nonprofit organization Grassroots Baseball and got the idea for the film after attending an all-girls baseball game. "It was the coolest thing I've ever seen," she told *The Week Junior*.

Jean Fruth

Fruth filmed in seven countries, including Uganda, where a growing number of girls and young women play the sport. In the documentary, athletes such as American Kelsie Whitmore, the first woman to join and play on a professional men's team associated with Major League Baseball, discuss their love for the game, facing discrimination, and being role models. The film also includes highlights from the 2024 Women's Baseball World Cup and spotlights teams and players that competed there.

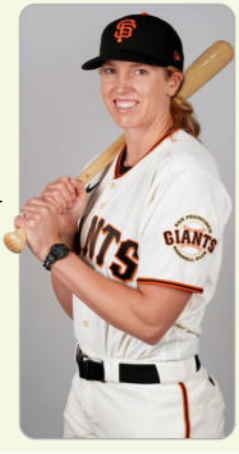
Fruth said *See Her Be Her* is about "raising awareness and creating more opportunities for girls and women." Girls who play baseball when they're young are often pushed into softball, so one of Fruth's goals is to encourage people to see that baseball isn't just for boys and men. She hopes girls will be inspired by the athletes in the film and create a new vision of what is possible. "You can't dream unless you see it," she said.

3 baseball trailblazers

Effa Manley

In the 1930s and 1940s, Effa Manley co-owned a Negro League baseball team with her husband. In 2006, she became the first woman inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

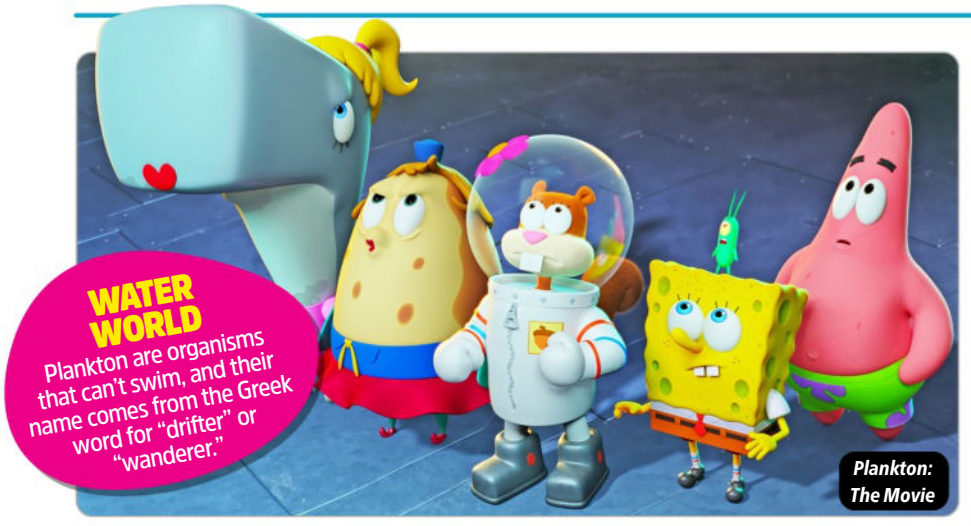
Alyssa Nakken



In 2020, Alyssa Nakken was hired by the San Francisco Giants and became the first full-time female coach in Major League Baseball history. She remained with the team until 2024, when she joined the Cleveland Guardians' player development staff.

Nicole Sherry

At Camden Yards in Maryland, the home stadium of the Baltimore Orioles, Nicole Sherry is the head groundskeeper. She is one of two women who have ever held that top job at a Major League ballpark.



A new *SpongeBob* adventure

Fans of the popular *SpongeBob SquarePants* series can now see a whole different side of the show's longtime villain, Plankton. His story is being told in the new film *Plankton: The Movie*, which was just released on Netflix.

Sheldon J. Plankton is the scheming owner of the run-down Chum Bucket restaurant in Bikini Bottom, the underwater city where SpongeBob and his friends live. For years, he has been seeking world domination by trying to steal the secret recipe for the Krabby Patty, a veggie burger at a popular rival restaurant. Although his wife, Karen, has tried to help him, in the film she becomes fed up with his failures and goes after the dream herself.

Mr. Lawrence

Since *SpongeBob* began in 1999, Plankton has been voiced by an actor who goes by the name Mr. Lawrence. He told *The Week Junior* that the film offers a glimpse of what Plankton could have been if he'd had different ambitions: "He becomes more like SpongeBob—a more joyful character, one that feels empathy toward everyone." Jill Talley, who voices Karen, said her character has always been full of patience, but in the film she reaches her limit. The change, she said, was "fun and exciting."

One reason Lawrence likes working on *SpongeBob* projects that aren't part of the main series is because they give fans a fuller understanding of the characters. "The more depth they get, the more they become more human to us, more relatable," he said. Plankton is especially relatable, he added, because things usually don't go his way. "Frustration can be looked at as negative," the actor said, "but we all experience frustration all the time. If you can laugh, it helps."

READER RECOMMENDS

Leo *(PG) Netflix*

"I love this movie! The story centers on a fifth grade class and their classroom pets: a turtle named Squirtle and a lizard named Leo. Leo is 74 years old and worries that he's nearing the end of his life. When a substitute teacher takes over the class, she brings back the tradition of sending the pets home with the students for the weekend. Leo sees it as a chance to escape and live out the rest of his life in the wild, but when he goes to kids' homes, he talks to them and helps them face their fears. I really like how funny Leo is and seeing how each student has a different home life." Teddy, 10, New Jersey

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

Fur Babies

(Disney+) (Hulu) (NatGeo Wild)

Two veterinarians guide families through their pets' pregnancies and births in this new documentary series. Using advanced medical technology, including special camera setups, the series captures both the challenges and joys of bringing animals into the world.

American Idol

(Hulu) (ABC) Sundays at 8 p.m. ET

The 23rd season of this singing competition is back with host Ryan Seacrest and star judges Luke Bryan and Lionel Richie. They are joined by new judge Carrie Underwood, who won the American Idol title in 2005 and went on to become an award-winning country artist.

Amazing Race

(CBS) (Paramount+)

Follow along as two-person teams race around the world, complete challenges in different countries, and try not to get eliminated. The new season, which just premiered, includes surprise twists, including one in which opponents have to work together.

NETFLIX/NICKELODEON MOVIES; GETTY IMAGES; NETFLIX; DISNEY (2); CBS BROADCASTING. ON LEFT PAGE: JEAN FRUTH; GETTY IMAGES (3); ASSOCIATED PRESS

DIG IT!
In 2024, archaeologists in Poland discovered a helmet that was 2,300 years old.

Big Helmet Heroes

Adventure with funny knights

Big Helmet Heroes is a new side-scrolling platform game that mixes fighting, adventure, and goofiness. It was recently released for the Nintendo Switch, PlayStation 5, Xbox systems, and PC.

In the game, players go on a quest to save a princess in a faraway land and have to battle hordes of enemies along the way. It can be played alone or with two players in local co-op mode. There are two knights at the start of the game. If you're solo, you will choose which one you want to control. The other knight will travel with yours, and you can switch between them. In co-op mode, each player controls one knight only.

There are four types of characters in the game: the Warrior, who has a sword and shield, the Brute, who is armed with a war hammer, the acrobatic Monk with a special staff, and the fast Rogue who has daggers. In addition to the traditional weapons, knights can also fight with items such as flaming marshmallows and lollipops. Each hero has a superpower, such as being able to grow in size or increase their speed. The main knights have silly powers as well, such as summoning a stampede of sheep to clear baddies away.

The Rogue

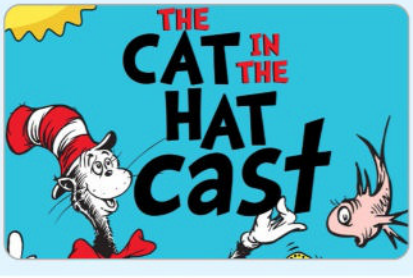
There are 29 other knights scattered among the game's 21 levels, where they are trapped in cages and hidden in castles, jungles, towns, and other areas. Much of the game is about unlocking those wild knights, who become playable characters. As you fight, you can switch between the knights you've rescued, performing combos and healing damaged heroes on the fly.

PODCAST OF THE WEEK

THE CAT IN THE HAT CAST

Major podcast platforms

This award-winning podcast, based on Dr. Seuss's book *The Cat in the Hat*, is narrated by the story's characters Cat and Fish. The funny episodes include one with a game in which wrong answers are the right ones. It's used as a way to help Fish overcome his fear of making mistakes.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

ROWE SANCTUARY CRANE CAM

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-CraneCam

In early spring, about 250,000 migrating sandhill cranes stop in Nebraska's Platte River Valley as they fly north. A live camera feed from the Rowe Sanctuary in Nebraska allows people to watch them come and go. Visitors to the camera's site can also learn facts about the birds.

GAME OF THE WEEK

SUPER FARMING BOY

Apple App Store

In this action puzzle game, you play as Super, a boy on a mission to save his mother and friends after they are taken by the evil KORPO. You save them by farming and collecting enough points to win them back. It helps that Super can transform into tools such as shovels, hammers, and a watering can.

BIG HELMET HEROES (2); WONDERY; GETTY IMAGES; LEMONCHILI GAMES

BOOK OF THE WEEK

One Wrong Step

By Jennifer A. Nielsen

(Scholastic)

This historical fiction novel is set in 1939, when World War II is about to begin. Atlas and his dad set out to climb Mount Everest as part of an expedition group. At that time, no one had ever made it to the top! They climb part of the way up the mountain to a base camp. Atlas' dad leaves him there with Maddie, the daughter of another climber in the expedition, as well as a guide who has been injured, so the rest of the group can attempt to reach the summit. Atlas and Maddie have been there for about two weeks when they hear a deep rumbling coming from higher up the mountain. It's an avalanche of snow falling down. They try to contact their parents using walkie-talkies but hear only static on the other end. They grow even more worried when they learn that war in Europe has broken out and speculate that everyone will be too distracted to help locate their parents and the other climbers. With winds whipping up to 200 miles per hour, Atlas, Maddie, and their injured guide start climbing the mountain. Will they be able to rescue everyone? It's hard to put down this gripping story that mainly takes place over the course of five weeks.

ASK THE AUTHOR

Jennifer Nielsen

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

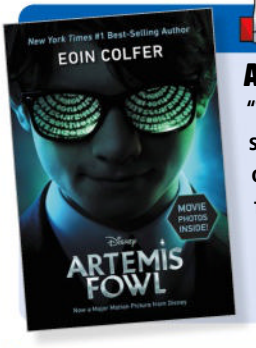
What inspired this book?
I have always been fascinated by Mount Everest. To me, there's something amazing about the people who make the choice to prepare to climb that mountain.

What surprised you when you were writing it?
The earliest climbers of Everest were advanced in what they were able to achieve with so little technology.

What is one of the themes of this story?
When faced with a challenge, keep climbing even if the route ahead of you isn't clear.

Did you love history while growing up?
Yes! I had amazing teachers who told stories that ignited my love for history.

Mountain or beach vacation?
I live in the mountains, so I am happy to go to the beach.



READER RECOMMENDS

Artemis Fowl *By Eoin Colfer*

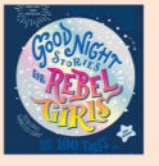
"This book follows 12-year-old Artemis Fowl and his obsession with sprites, who are a type of fairy. After Artemis bargains with an outcast sprite, he receives a book containing all the secrets of fairies. He plans to steal gold from the fairies, so he kidnaps a fairy captain named Holly to use her as ransom. Will he succeed in his plan, or will he fail miserably?" Joshua, 12, Maryland

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

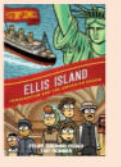
4 nonfiction books full of amazing facts

These titles explore interesting animals, people, and places.

The Dark!: Wild Life in the Mysterious World of Caves
By Lindsey Leigh
(Penguin Workshop)
This graphic novel is packed with facts about animals that live in the dark, such as bats. For instance, did you know a cave leech can suck 10 times its body weight in blood and then not have to eat again for a year? *Ages 8–12*



Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls
By Rebel Girls
(DK Children)
This new, expanded edition highlights the accomplishments of 22 more women and girls, including author Judy Blume, environmental advocate Greta Thunberg, and pop star Taylor Swift. Overall, the book features more than 100 stories of women in over 70 different professions. *Ages 8 and up*



History Comics: Ellis Island
By Felipe Galindo Feggo, illustrated by Tait Howard
(First Second)
The latest graphic novel in this series explores the role of Ellis Island in New York. From 1892 to 1954, millions of immigrants came through Ellis Island to become US citizens. Today, it is a museum that millions of people visit. The artwork is spectacular. *Ages 9 and up*

Many Things Under a Rock: Young Readers Edition: The Mysteries of Octopuses
By David Scheel, illustrated by Laurel "Yoyo" Scheel (Norton Young Readers)
A marine biologist describes what he has learned from studying octopuses all over the world. For instance, you'll discover how an octopus can regrow a lost arm. A helpful glossary defines key terms. *Ages 10 and up*

BOOKS: COURTESY THE PUBLISHERS; GETTY IMAGES; JEFF NIELSEN

Talk to people you disagree with

Use these ideas to avoid arguments and have meaningful conversations.

Everyone occasionally has disagreements with friends or family members. For example, you and your friends might not agree about what game to play at recess, which restaurant makes the best pizza, or which baseball team is the best in the league. Sometimes you may also have different views than a friend or family member about more serious topics, like events happening in the US or around the world. While disagreements can be uncomfortable, there are some steps you can take to make conversations more civil and productive. Here's how.

See their perspective

Even if you don't share someone's point of view, you can still listen to what they have to say. Show that you're paying attention by listening attentively without interrupting them. Think about how their life experiences may be different from yours, which gives them a perspective that's different from yours too. Another way to show that you're listening is by asking questions or repeating what they said. You can start by saying, "OK. If I understand you, you are saying..."

Use respectful language

When someone has an opinion you don't agree with, it can be easy to dismiss it—especially if it's on a subject you're passionate about. Some people shoot down others' opinions by using sarcasm or attacking the person's judgment. (If you've had this happen to you, you know it doesn't feel good!) Avoid using insulting adjectives, like "stupid," "dumb," or "ridiculous." Instead, focus on speaking calmly. Start with statements that begin with "I" instead of "You." For example, you might lead your opinion with "I feel" or "I see this another way."

WOW! The longest debate marathon lasted 27 hours, 58 minutes, and was achieved by the College Historical Society at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, in 2023.

Stick to the facts

If you have a strong opinion, you can make a better case for it with facts instead of feelings. Start by asking if you can share your opinion. Then relax your shoulders and say what you would like to say in a calm voice. If you get interrupted, gently remind the person that you gave them a turn to speak and now you would like to speak. Then give the person a chance to respond.

Find common ground

You may find that you can't change the other person's mind, and they may not change yours. Still, look for points you do agree on. You may also gain a better understanding of each other's opinion. In the end, it's worth the effort because healthy communication builds strong relationships and communities.

Ways to feel calm

If you're feeling stressed out, here are some quick solutions to feeling calm and in control.

Get outside Exercise can help you forget the irritations of the day. Do what brings you joy, whether kicking a soccer ball, running, or doing yoga.

Keep a journal Writing down your feelings can help you vent your frustrations. You can also record your gratitude for what's going right, which can help give you perspective.

Pet an animal Research shows that simply petting a dog lowers the stress hormone cortisol and increases the feel-good hormone oxytocin.

WARNING! Ask an adult's permission before using a knife or the stove.

TASTY TOPPING Everything bagel seasoning is made of poppy seeds, sesame seeds, dried garlic, dried onion, and salt.

Make everything bagel pasta with cheese and broccoli

Ingredients

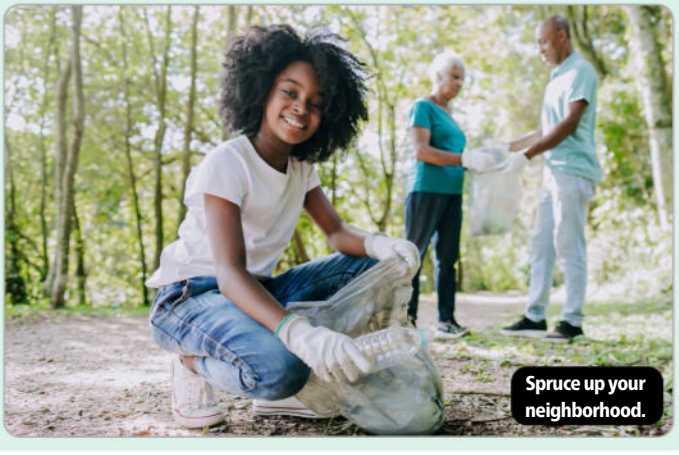
- 1 large broccoli crown, cut into florets
- 12 ounces cavatappi pasta
- 1⅓ cups ricotta
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 3 tablespoons everything bagel seasoning, plus more for serving
- ½ teaspoon lemon zest
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper

Instructions

1. Place a large, heat-safe bowl on a countertop near the stove. With an adult's help, bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Add the broccoli and cook 4 minutes.
2. With the water still boiling and with an adult's help, use a slotted spoon to remove the broccoli from the pot and place in the heat-safe bowl.
3. Add the pasta to the boiling water and cook according to the package directions. Once done, with an adult's assistance, drain and add the pasta to the bowl with the broccoli, reserving ¾ cup pasta water.
4. Quickly add the ricotta, Parmesan, bagel seasoning, and lemon zest to the pasta bowl.
5. Add ½ cup of the reserved pasta water, and use a spatula to stir together the ingredients until saucy and creamy. If needed, add more pasta water, 1 tablespoon at a time. Taste then season with salt and pepper as desired.
6. Serve immediately with more bagel seasoning for sprinkling. Makes 6 servings.

ECO TIP OF THE WEEK: DO A SPRING CLEANUP

When winter comes to an end, many people do what's called spring cleaning, when they deep-clean their home. You can also do this in your neighborhood. Talk to the people who live near you to see if they are interested, then set a date for your community cleanup. On the day, start by walking around your neighborhood and picking up any trash you see. Sometimes there's more litter on sidewalks in the spring because it was covered with snow or simply not noticed since fewer people are outside in the winter. Next, clear any natural debris and rake leaves that have fallen from spring storms. Once you're done, walk through your neighborhood to admire your efforts.



Spruce up your neighborhood.

GETTY IMAGES (3); JOY HOWARD

Crisscross

Each of these words associated with chocolate fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

3 letters
BAG
BOX

4 letters
KISS

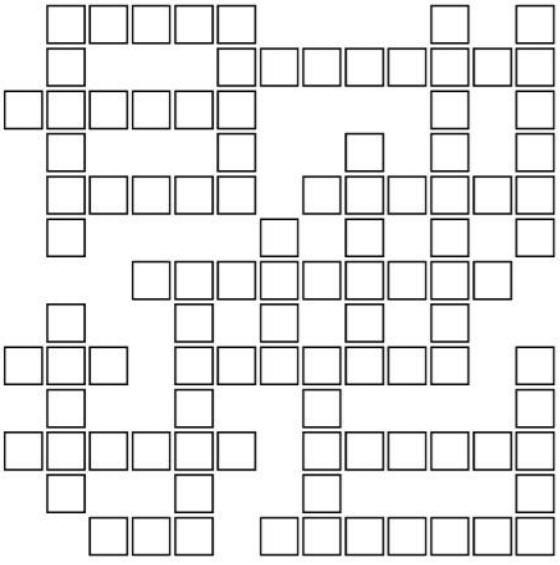
5 letters
DONUT
FUDGE
PIECE
SUGAR
SYRUP
TORTE

6 letters
COOKIE
FONDUE
GLAZED
MOUSSE
MUFFIN
SMOOTH
S'MORES

7 letters
DESSERT
PUDDING
TRUFFLE

8 letters
ICE CREAM

9 letters
SEMISWEET
SPRINKLES



Take five

Five 5-letter things associated with housepainters are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

B	O	T	E	Y
P	R	L	P	X
L	U	I	S	R
C	R	U	T	S
D	A	T	O	H

ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters R-A-M. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words?

1. Huge ancient Egyptian tomb ☐☐RAM☐☐
2. Popular style of breakfast eggs ☐☐RAM☐☐☐☐
3. Backyard or gym equipment to bounce on ☐RAM☐☐☐☐☐☐
4. Chewy stuff in Twix and Snickers ☐☐RAM☐☐
5. Biggest award in the music business ☐RAM☐☐

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.

	6		4		
1					5
			3		2
5		2			
6					3
		3		1	

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a box of assorted chocolates appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

PUZZLES BY PUZZABILITY

Take five hint: One of the words begins with PU.

The Lego set (right) and its inspiration

Lego version of famous painting

Artist Vincent van Gogh's famous paintings of sunflowers have inspired a Lego set. The new kit, released on March 1, includes 2,615 pieces and 16 sunflowers and features a tile with van Gogh's signature. The Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, was involved in its creation. The museum's managing director said, "We hope this Lego set will inspire and engage new audiences with the art and life story of Vincent van Gogh." Visitors can also see a Lego installation at the museum this summer.

Would you take a dip?

A saucy addition to bath time

Diehard fans of Papa Johns have mused on social media that the pizza chain's garlic dipping sauce is so delicious they want to bathe in it. Now the company is granting their wish by introducing a bath bomb inspired by the beloved sauce. The product is designed to dissolve into water, releasing the scent of buttery garlic into the bath. The limited-edition bath bomb was made available to select fans who publicly proclaimed their love of garlic sauce on social media. "You're welcome," Papa Johns posted.

The city got his seal of approval.

Seal visits seafood pizza hub

When a young gray seal was seen waddling the streets of New Haven, Connecticut, residents joked that he was looking for clam pizza, a local specialty. Wildlife experts think the pup, nicknamed Chappy, wandered in from the beach and got lost. Mystic Aquarium rescued Chappy and plans to return him to the wild. Meanwhile, a museum has unveiled a Chappy bobblehead, and a police spokesman suggested that in case of future seal sightings, "Maybe we should just start keeping mackerel in the cruisers."

Do mummies smell yummy?

Sniffing mummies for science

Researchers in the UK have been smelling mummies—for science. A team sniffed nine mummified human bodies from ancient Egypt, which were up to 5,000 years old and had been preserved using products such as scented oils and natural resins. According to the scientists, the mummies smelled unexpectedly pleasant, giving off "spicy," "sweet," and "woody" odors along with familiar aromas like incense or tea. "That was surprising," said researcher Cecilia Bembibre. Is this story real, or is it wrapped up in a lie?*

*Real! Since smells were important in ancient Egypt, the scientists said that analyzing lingering scents can reveal information about a person's life. "You can put your nose to that little tube and smell...history," said Cecilia Bembibre.

COVER IMAGES: COURTESY PAPA JOHNS; GETTY IMAGES (6); ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES (2)

Your turn

Editor's note

I love watching the Academy Awards, and this year I was especially excited to see which film would win the Oscar for best animated feature (p3). All the nominees (*Flow*, *Inside Out 2*, *Memoir of a Snail*, *Wallace & Gromit: Vengeance Most Fowl*, and *The Wild Robot*) are terrific, and the suspense leading up to the big night was intense. Film critics typically make predictions in advance as to which films will win Oscars, and we decided to do the same. Our arts editors, who see just about every movie for kids that is released and write about them for the magazine, thought *Flow* was going to win, and they were right! If you haven't seen it yet, we hope our story will inspire you to check it out. And if you have a favorite movie or show that you think other kids would enjoy, whether it has won an award or not, we invite you to submit it for our Reader Recommends column. The box on page 21 tells you how.

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director

Hailey, 13, New York

Art auction for a park

"I am a regular volunteer at Rockefeller State Park Preserve, which was featured in *The Week Junior*. My love of the preserve led me to launch Hailey's Charity Art Auction. Since 2022, I have been auctioning my original artwork to raise money for the preserve. My third auction was held in November 2024. In the first two years, I raised more than $11,000. It was used by the preserve to help purchase two all-terrain wheelchairs, which make it possible for people with mobility issues to access and enjoy nature. The preserve and its staff have encouraged my love of science and nature, and my regular walks there help me get rid of stress and anxiety."

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

How do you make an egg roll?

Give it a push.

CHARITY OF THE WEEK

Craft Emergency Relief Fund

This organization supports artists in times of hardship. It grants financial assistance to those affected by natural disasters, such as the wildfires in Los Angeles, California. The group also helps artists prepare their studios for emergencies and provides them with networking opportunities. Since its founding in 1985, it has distributed more than $1.52 million in aid to about 525 artists. Find out more at cerfplus.org.

cerf+ Craft Emergency Relief Fund

Show us your favorite issue of *The Week Junior*!

***The Week Junior* will be marking its fifth anniversary this month. To celebrate, we're asking readers to send us photos of themselves holding the issue they enjoyed most since they began subscribing. Some of the photos we receive will appear in Issue 257. If you'd like to participate, ask an adult to email your photo to *hello@theweekjunior.com* with Favorite Issue in the subject line. Thank you for helping us look back on an amazing five years of publication!**

THE WEEK Junior IT'S YOUR TURN Email your news, views, and photos to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at *hello@theweekjunior.com*, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.

"I was inspired by *The Week Junior* to make the Valentine's Day heart cookies. They're super delicious!" Olivia, 10, Washington

"I heard about the possible discontinuance of the penny, so I decided to make my own snow penny!" Aiden, 13, Maryland

"I love reading *The Week Junior* to my little sister. She's always surprised by world news!" Elena, 9, with Maddie, 4, California

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mr. Adrian**

School: **The Croft School**

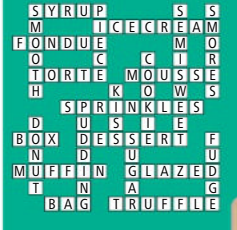
"I want to nominate my teacher Mr. Adrian because he lets us play a whole class game during our morning meeting. He makes learning so fun by letting us act out the characters in the book we are reading. The most important thing he taught us is expanded form in math. I appreciate that he is so kind when he helps us."

Marco, 8, Rhode Island

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to *hello@theweekjunior.com*.

GETTY IMAGES; ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES

Puzzle answers (from page 26)



Take five
brush
putty
latex
color
drips

All the same
1. pyramid
2. scrambled
3. trampoline
4. caramel
5. Grammy

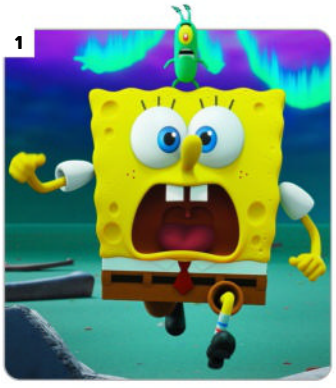
3	6	5	4	2	1
1	2	4	6	3	5
4	1	6	3	5	2
5	3	2	1	6	4
6	5	1	2	4	3
2	4	3	5	1	6

Quiz answers (from page 30) **1** The Chum Bucket **2** b) Ferrari **3** True **4** a) 1995 **5** c) Vincent van Gogh **6** Mount Everest **7** False. They lost their first two matches. **8** b) The Rogue **9** False. They evolved from fish gills. **10** c) Latvia **11** Six **12** False. Most trips lasted a few minutes. **13** a) 70% **14** *See Her Be Her* **15** c) Garlic

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What is the name of Plankton's restaurant in *SpongeBob SquarePants*?



2 Which Formula 1 team will driver Lewis Hamilton be racing for this year?

a) Cadillac b) Ferrari c) Mercedes

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 True or false? Frida Escobedo is the first woman to design a wing at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

True ☐ False ☐

4 In which year were gray wolves reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park?

a) 1995 b) 2001 c) 2013

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 A new sunflower-themed Lego set was inspired by which artist?

a) Pablo Picasso

b) Leonardo da Vinci

c) Vincent van Gogh

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 In the book *One Wrong Step*, what mountain are Atlas and his father attempting to climb?

7 True or false? The LA Galaxy won their first two matches of the MLS season.

True ☐ False ☐

8 In the video game Big Helmet Heroes, which type of knight uses daggers?

a) The Brute

b) The Rogue

c) The Warrior

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

ANSWERS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 29.

9 True or false? A recent study found that the outer ear of humans evolved from fish fins.

True ☐ False ☐

10 *Flow*, which won the Academy Award for best animated feature, is the first Oscar-winning film from what country?

a) Belarus

b) Estonia

c) Latvia

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 How many Olympic gold medals has basketball player Diana Taurasi won?

12 True or false? A study found that when honeybees take trips out of their hives, most stay out for two hours or more.

True ☐ False ☐

13 About how many cherry tree blossoms need to be open to achieve peak bloom?

a) 70%

b) 80%

c) 90%

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 What is the name of the new movie about women's baseball that was directed by photographer Jean Fruth?

15 Papa Johns created a bath bomb that smells like what type of sauce?

a) Ranch

b) Barbecue

c) Garlic

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

Editorial director: Andrea Barbalich
Executive editor: Mindy Walker
Senior editors: Joey Bartolomeo, Gail O'Connor, Alisa Partlan, Jennifer Li Shotz
Associate editor: Brielle Diskin
Assistant editor: Asha Sridhar
Senior writer: Brandon Wiggins
Staff writer: Felissa Allard
Senior research editor: Douglas Grant
Creative director: Dean Abatemarco
Production director: Paul Kramer
Senior art director: Victoria Beall

Photo editor: Nataki Hewling
Contributors: Stephanie Abramson, Lily Alt, Karen Cicero, Erica Clark, Stacy Cousino, Susie Dent, Truman Devitt, Dave Howard, Joy Howard, Jodi Levine, Bari Nan Cohen Rothchild, Melisa Russo, Jordan Zakarin
Senior VP, subscriptions media and events: Sarah Rees
Managing director, news: Richard Campbell
Brand director, news: Harry Haydon
Senior director, consumer marketing: Leslie Guarnieri
Head of growth marketing: Colleen Shire Ho
Digital marketing director: Katie Hay
Publisher: Stevie Lee (*stevie.lee@futurenet.com*)
Account director: Mary Gallagher (*mary.gallagher@futurenet.com*)
US manufacturing and distribution manager: Lori Crook
Operations manager: Cassandra Mondonedo

Reader submissions: *hello@theweekjunior.com*
Customer service: *TWJcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com*
New subscriptions: TheWeekJunior.com
©2025. All rights reserved. *The Week* and *The Week Junior* are registered trademarks. Neither the whole of this publication nor any part of it may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the written permission of the publishers.
The Week Junior (ISSN 2689-9027) is published weekly, except January 3, January 10, July 11, and September 12. *The Week Junior* is published by Future US LLC, 130 West 42nd Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices.
POSTMASTERS: Send change of address to *The Week Junior,* PO Box 37595, Boone, IA 50037-7595.

FUTURE
Connectors. Creators. Experience Makers.

Future plc is a public company quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol: FUTR)
www.futureplc.com

Chief Executive Officer **Jon Steinberg**
Non-Executive Chairman **Richard Huntingford**
Chief Financial Officer **Sharjeel Suleman**

Tel +44 (0)1225 442 244

LA GALAXY: NETFLIX/NICKELODEON MOVIES; GETTY IMAGES (3)

It's National Reading Month!

To celebrate National Reading Month, give a special gift of *The Week Junior* to a child in your life. With a wide range of news stories on a variety of topics, there is something in each issue to delight and inspire every child. And if you give a gift today, you will receive our special subscription offer just for National Reading Month!

To order, SCAN HERE:

To order a 25 weekly issue subscription of *The Week Junior* and save 67%, plus get 2 free gifts, visit theweekjunior.com/America

THE WEEK Junior

THE WEEK Junior

WORK OF ART

The Royal Opera, the main theater at the Palace of Versailles in France, features a ceiling painted by Louis Jean-Jacques Durameau in 1769.

GETTY IMAGES

9001
9000